

A FEW WORDS

in answer to the

RESOLVES

of some who are called

INDEPENDANT-TEACHERS,

Whose Gospel and Ministry appears
to depend upon Tythes, or as full a
maintenance secured to them by a
Carnal Law, as appears from their
own mouths in their judgements, and
desires to the present Rulers, delivered
as followeth.

By JAMES NAYLOR.

L O N D O N,

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(2)
FIRST we judge a Parliament the best expedient for the preservation of these Nations.

Ans. The best expedient for the preserving of the Nation, is for all people in the Nations to turn to God, that with his light you may be led to repentance and newness of life, that that may be done away in every heart, for which the wrath of God comes upon Nations and People, and whilst people are out from the Light of Christ in their own hearts, such are looking to the Hills and Mountains for safety and peace; some for Kings, and some for Parliaments, while wrath and lust increases in your own hearts, and it is that within you will destroy you, while your eyes are abroad for safety.

2. And whilst we desire all due care be taken, that the Parliament be such as may preserve the interest of Christ and his people in these Nations.

Ans. The chief interest of Christ in these Nations and elsewhere upon earth, is his spiritual dominion in the consciences of people. And that there he be confessed to be absolute King and Law-giver, to whom alone every heart is to bow, and every Tongue confesse, and that the Will and Laws of men usurp not authority therein, but that he by his spirit exercise the conscience in all things to God and men, and this is his interest which he is now demanding as his birth-right in his people, both from Kings, Parliaments and such as was called *Protectors*, and who ever Rules amongst men, which being denied him, his wrath hath been kindled in their Kingdom; and it greatly concerns all that come into authority, as they look to stand before him, that this his Interest be preserved, and this interest of his people also, which is to have free liberty to obey him in their conscience in all his spiritual motions, though never so much contrary to flesh and blood, and if the Parliament be such, it must not be made up of old persecutors nor new, but be men of feeling, fearing God and tender in conscience, and above all they must take heed of lending an ear to the wicked Counsel of such Teachers as serve not the Lord Jesus Christ but their own bellies, which have been the cause of all the blood and persecution that hath been shed in this our generation, who never cease to provoke the Magistrates to establish mischief by a law, chiefly against this interest of Christ and his people, of which number you appear to be in your following desires.

3. As to Magistrates power in matters of Faith and Worship, we have

have declared in judgements in our late confession, and we heartily prize our Christian liberty; yet we profess our mter dislike and abhorrence of unaniversall tolleration, as being contrary to the mind of God in his word.

Q. What your judgement in your late confession was I know not, but you might do well to show your judgement in plainnes, what this un-
 versal Tolleration is wch you dislike & abhor; whether it be that you
 abhor that any should be tollerated, but your own Sect, or such as are
 to near you to testify against your errors, if this be it (as like it is) then
 it is too selfish to be sound judgment or safe counsel to be followed,
 being against the rule of Christ, do so all men as you would be done unto,
 or would you have tolleration to none but such as are in the true
 power of Spirit and true form of sound words written in Scripture?
 this were to wipe out your selves, and bring in those against whom
 you profess your enmity (in your last particular) to wit the *Quakers*,
 who at this day have both power of Spirit and Letter against
 you, as to both your call, your whole form of Worship, and the
 manner of your hire, being such as no true Ministers of Christ ever
 practised, wherein the *Quakers* and you differ, or do you onely in-
 tend against tolleration of open profaneness, which none that loves
 Christ or his interest will plead for, in this I am one with you, but
 if by Universal Tolleration you intend that the Magistrate should
 dimitt the Spirit of Christ in any of his Creatures, because his way
 is not your way, but against false wayes and false worships as he
 moves them to bear his testimony, as in former times he hath done
 in the true Prophets and Ministers against the false, then is your
 Spirit teen to be the same that theirs was, who ever sought to stop
 the Mouth of Truth, least thier deceit should be laid open, and that
 is that which ever was against the interest of Christ, and the mind
 of God in his word, and it will not be an easie thing for men to
 dimitt the Holy Spirit in his movings, or to measure a way to him
 whole way you know not, flesh and blood must be silent, which
 would fill a cup to another, which you would not drink your
 selves, and the Spirit must speak ere you can know either mind
 or word that is in God.

Q. We judge that the taking away Tythes for the maintenance of
 Ministers until as full a maintenance equally secured under Legall
 laws, and much to the distraction of the Ministry and Persecuting of the
 Gospel in these Nations.

Ans. This is your judgement, and you may be believed herein,
 being now upon the mark you aim at, and the price of your calling

and Preaching in these Nations, and you do but here declare in words, what all the seeing people in these Nations did foreknow was in your hearts, but the word Gospel you cannot bring in with this carnal stuff, that's taken from you, and must no longer cover you; what, will the Gospel be destroyed for lack of Tithes, or a maintenance secured from a forcible Law? blush for shame, it was never known that forced hire or agreement before-hand had ever the least place in the free Gospel Ministry; This cannot stand with a spiritual call nor free gift, nay it exceeds the Legal priesthood and false Prophets, and goes beyond *Balaam* in error; what either Tithes or as full as Tithes so secured, and by the same law; must Papists laws up still, or else the Gospel falls? This is none of Christs Gospel that thus depends, nor is this the hire of his Servants, whose reward it is to make the Gospel without charge, was it ever known that any of his seed came to the earthly powers to beg their bread, or to take it by force; doth he thus maintain his family? doth not such a servant shame the Masters house? you Friends, all who know the power of his free Grace, and the riches of the everlasting Gospel denies your Gospel that will not fill your bellies, but must be kept from distraction with perishing food, by a forcing carnal Law, that is not the Gospel which is the power of God, nor was the Ministers of the everlasting Gospel so maintained; search the Scriptures and be ashamed, and stop your mouth from ever pretending your selves to be Ministers of the Spirit or of the Letter, who are gone out from both, and neither will own your words and practise herein, nor indeed no part of your worship as it now stands (as will be easily made apparent by plain Scripture upon a fair occasion) but are gone after times and rewards, as your Fathers have done for many ages, who to the letter are not yet come, and yet would be maintained by a Law contrary to Scripture or Saints practice.

And therefore the Parliament, if they be such as would preserve Christs Interest (as you say) they must not force the Lambs of Christ to maintain Wolves in Sheeps Cloathing, who are now known by their Fruits, which is Christs Rule and Command to know them by; and this is against his Interest and the interest of his People, to be thus forced against Scripture and a pure Conscience; for the Scripture tells of a Ministry which minded earthly things, whose God was their belly, who were Murmurers and Complainers, running greedily after the way of *Cain* and Error of *Balaam*;

Balaam; (Mark) *Cain* and *Balaam* are put together, and these are against Christs Interest and his People; and if they who had the form of godlinesse without the Power, were to be turned away from, then by what law must those who are out of both be maintained as Christs Ministers under pretence of the Gospel destruction? I know that without forced Maintenance, and fulnesse of it, and good Security, the National Ministry would fall, which hangs thereon, it being their function as they call it. And so if any see their Work worth it, let such hire them, and setting them on Work upon that account, its fit they should Pay them that they labour for; but that such as have received the Ministration of the free Spirit of Life which is in Christ Jesus, should be forced against his law in their Consciences to maintain such as are out of the Doctrine of Christ, and can do no work for them but against them, Or that at all this is to secure Christs Interest, Or that the destruction of the Gospel of Truth depends thereon, that is utterly denied as a false judgement, and absolutely against the Kingdom of Jesus in his Temples, his law in their hearts, and his divine Power and Spirit by which he upholds all things pertaining to life and godlinesse, and this were the only way for the next Parliament or Power to run themselves against that Rock against which so many before their eyes hath been broken, and few there be in this Nation, except such as have hardened their own hearts and blinded the eye of a pure mind, but they have seen its wherefore take heed you Rulers, (if it be not too late) how you meddle with Christs Kingdom, but kisse the Son and yield him his Kingdom in tender Consciences, touch not the apple of the eye which sees that to be sin and evil which yet you do not, of which you have often been warned; but if you will make Lawes let the Scriptures be your Rule without, and a pure Conscience enlightened with the Spirit of Christ within, that so you may become tender hearted in the fear of God, that the edge of your Sword may be turned against open wickednesse, being touched with a true sense of what grieves the Spirit of Christ in your selves, being joyned to the Lord in one Spirit and Life, and this will be your wisdom, the Interest of Christ and his People, and from thence you will receive better Counsel and truer judgement then that which would stir you up to persecute and force tender Consciences against their faith and knowledge received of the Lord Jesus in matters of his Worship, for serving, men of corrupt minds,

having hearts exercised with contentions Praetises, who cannot cease from sin, and stirring up Nations to devour one another to accomplish their own ends: And had not the Powers of this Nation sold a Confederacy to such Teachers, and taken off their Counsel again which once God had discovered to be against them, and set them free from, then had they been established in Peace in their right Authority, and Christ in his; and far from Oppression had they been, had they abode in Gods Teachings, their hearts had been kept tender, and that eye open which would have given them a sight towards the helpless who have been wasted through the Oppressor, from whom they should have been set free, whose blood now lyes upon the Nations, for which is now enquiry making.

5. It is our desire that countenance be not given unto, nor trust reposed in the hand of Quakers, being persons of such Principles that are destructive to the Gospel, and inconsistent with Peace and Civil Society.

Answer. As for your desire that we should not have the Countenance of men, we lay the Light of Gods Countenance is much better, and we cannot look for both while men take your Counsel; and our trust is in God, in whose hand we are and not in our own, and from men we may not seek repose, better it is (for the present) to suffer with Christ then to reign in your kingdom, or be honored with your Glory, so in Patience stands our Peace with God, even whilst our Names are cast out as evil with men; But for your Accusation of our Persons and Principles to be Destructive to the Gospel and Civil Society, take that back again to your selves; our Persons we boast not in, but our Principles are Truth grounded upon the Light of Jesus and loadings of his holy Spirit, and whatever is contrary we condemn, and this we certainly know will never be destructive to Christs Gospel, onely your Gospel it will destroy whose foundation stands not upon the power of the Spirit of Jesus, but upon Tythes or some sealed Maintenance carnal, as full, as secure, by a carnal law, else it is liable to destruction as your selves confesse: And this know, that your Gospel that must needs be destroyed if Tythes fall, is not that Gospel which the Apostles preached, for that Gospel begun most of all to flourish when Tythes went down, the Priesthood that received them, and the law that gave them, which you may read of in the Apostles Epistle to the Hebrews, (which law never took tythes by force as the Papists law did) And now you have often said, That whosoever preaches another Gospel let him be accursed; So take heed that your own words

words condemne you not; and your own Weapon pierce not your own bowels, for the Lord hath heard your words; and this we know, That the Gospel of Christ which the Apostles preached was upheld by the Power of an endless life, by which they was also made able Ministers and did not fall when Tythes fell, but then so much the more flourished, into such bounty, that the publishers thereof who had nothing did in it enjoy all things, which Gospel both your words and your actions declare daily. you live not on, but like men who have lost the Countel of God you set both contrary to Law and Gospel; was not this the Countel of God in the time of the Law when the Priests had only Tythes to live on, that then they should have no Magistrate to force them, but freely they was to bring their Offerings that so he might engage the Priest to himself who was his portion, and then they never wanted while they kept the word and their lips preserved knowledge in the people, but when the Priests forgot God, then like people, and then they justly wanted as God had said; and would you now have the Magistrate to make a Law to take peoples goods and give to such as do not first beget people to God? is this to live on the Gospel, or to eat of your own fruits as Christs Ministers do and ever did? thus may the Magistrate do for a while, and oppress the innocent against the Lord, to feed the fat and idle, but the account is at hand in which it will be said, *Did I require it at your hands? am not I of power to maintain my own Servants who have the hearts of all in my hands? Or what Lawes will you make for me who never made use of any in this case but the Law of Love to be fulfilled in a free Spirit, for in the Household of Christ is no strife about Carnal things;* And that Principle is destructive to the Gospel of Peace which admits of strife about their bellies, or framing mischief against another by a Law to fill themselves. And whereas you say our Principles are inconsistent with Peace and civil Society, to you it is said, Whom have we made War with (after the manner of men) though after Christ and his Servants we War against Spiritual wickedness daily, both in Teachers and People, not to destroy their bodies and goods as we have been destroyed daily, and are appointed to death upon all hands, yet we have Peace with God in this, That our hearts are with him for Mercy and Salvation to such as yet seek our destruction and hate us without Cause, except testifying against sin and false worship be Cause; And our Society is in that which is truly Civil, and civil we are when we are amongst our own

own, and towards the Creation of God; and if at any time wild Beasts we be amongst, and such as are in the wanton and uncivil Nature, we have little Society with them further then to reclaim them or to testify against them as we are moved of the Lord; and If this you call uncivil, or because we cannot observe your customs of Pride, and fashions of Vanity, then we account it better for us to endure your Reviling and Reproach, then the eternal judgment of the Lord who hath called us out of these things.

And now you pretended Teachers, you are found out of Christs Doctrine, and you have not yet received his teaching, who saith, *Take no thought for to morrow what you shall eat, or for Cloathing what to put on, nor are you Taught of him who saith, Seek first the kingdom of God and the righteousness thereof, and all these things shall be added unto you*: Now out of this faith you are found, and so out of the faith of Christ, and untaught you are of this Teacher, and how should you teach others; and your foundation is not the foundation of God, who say first Tythes or something as full made sure, and then you will build and your Gospel will stand, or else it will be destroyed; so your foundation is sandy and dirty, and not the foundation of God which stands sure, on which the Prophets and Apostles was built, who never took Tythes or set maintenance to bottome on, but said the Priesthood was changed, and of necessity there must be also a change of the Law. So these called not for a Law from man, nor made flesh their arm, nor carnal things their support as you do, so of this error you must repent, and come to their spirit to be taught, which depends upon God alone, and not on the World, else cease calling your selves Independant, or saying you are sent out by Christ Jesus who hang upon the earthly power for food and safety.

THE END.